reporting custodial deaths to avoid any delay in sending the post-mortem and Magisterial Inquairy Reports along with their videography to the Commission within the prescribed time limit. Further the Commission has also emphasized the need to curb the occurrence of custodial deaths to all State Governments.

Village electrification projects

2283. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to electrify 18,000 remote villages through Village Electrification Projects by year 2012;

(b) if so, number of villages to be electrified in Orissa under the Scheme; and

(c) by when, the work under the scheme is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a programme for the electrification of the estimated 18,000 villages in remote and difficult areas in the country through locally available renewable energy resources like solar, biomass and small hydro power by the year 2012. During the Tenth Plan period, 5,000 such villages are proposed to be electrified.

(b) and (c) The nodal agency for the renewable energy programmes in the state of Orissa i.e. the Orisssa Renewable Energy Development Agency (OREDA) submitted, during 2001-2002, lists of 600 remote and inaccessible census villages in the state for electrification through solar photovoltaic (SPV) systems with 90% central grant. As funding on such a pattern was not available during 2001-2002, the projects could not be sanctioned and the agency was informed accordingly.

High focus area in sundarban

2284. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minsiter of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sundarban area of West Bengal has been declared by MNES as High Focus area with 90 per cent Central financial assistance;